

Board of Selectmen
Special Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, February 20th, 2018, 7:30pm
Town Hall Meeting Room

- 1- **Call to order: First Selectman Chris Spaulding called the meeting to order at 7:35 pm.** Also present were Selectmen Brian Gordon, Selectman Stephan Grozinger, Administrative Assistant Randi Derene, Town Administrator Jonathan Luiz and members of the public.
- 2- **Pledge of Allegiance** – Amy Sanborn led in the Pledge.
- 3- **Discussion/decision regarding the appointment of Susan Moch at Moderator and Woody Bliss as Parliamentarian for the ATBM on April 18th, 2018.** Mr. Grozinger moved to appoint Susan Moch at Moderator and Woody Bliss as Parliamentarian for the Annual Town Budget Meeting (ATBM) to be held on April 18th, 2018. Mr. Gordon seconded. The motion carried unanimously.
- 4- **Discussion/decision regarding the Board of Selectmen's review and transmittal of the First Selectman's budget to the Board of Finance.**

Mr. Spaulding stated that Mr. Luiz did some research to answer Mr. Gordon's question of what it would take to cut the budget by 1 or 2%. Mr. Luiz proposed several options.

Mr. Spaulding said the Police Department (PD) desperately needs servers and that acquiring them cannot wait until next fiscal year. He proposed taking \$39,500 out of next year's fiscal budget and funding that amount this fiscal year via a supplemental appropriation. Mr. Luiz stated the town budget is projected overall is projected to have a surplus this year so the PD could ask for a supplemental appropriation now. Mr. Luiz added that an increase of \$8,000 is required in the FY 18-19 budget for Motor Fuels in the PD's budget. Mr. Luiz said the new administration of the PD has officers being more active in terms of patrolling the town in cars.

Mr. Spaulding spoke about Bisceglie Pond and how it carries a substantial expense, but the pond brings value to our residents.

Mr. Spaulding stated the assistant children's librarian is a position that could remain unfilled. Mr. Luiz explained the current children's librarian, Alessandra Petrino, has grown the program significantly since she has been here. This position would supplement the children's librarian. Ms. Sanborn (Library Board Chairman) added this position was approved at the ATBM last year.

She said there are 17 hours that are not covered by the children's librarian. She explained that Ms. Petrino tries to cover the hours needed, but it isn't enough.

Mr. Spaulding added that youth services director position was also cut down to a part time position, but could also remain unfilled for another year.

Mr. Grozinger asked if there were problems with not filling the youth director position this past year. Mr. Spaulding stated that the program director has been running all the afterschool programs and the school has increased their staff with social workers. Mr. Luiz also went over the job responsibilities of both the Youth Director and the assistant.

Mr. Gordon reviewed the areas that could be cut – Charging fees at Bisceglie was discussed. Mr. Luiz stated that in past they tried charging for the service but did not make much money.

Mr. Spaulding then discussed the use of the Transfer station. Mr. Luiz stated that there could be personnel savings by reducing the hours the transfer station would be open. He said that reducing hours of operation would likely reduce in some revenue loss from haulers.

Mr. Grozinger added that Planning and Zoning Commission has requested \$65,000 over two years to fund the drafting of the 2020 plan of conservation of development and feels we need to look at other ways around this expense. Mr. Luiz added that the Town would like to receive a citizen survey and downtown plan from that study.

Mr. Gordon suggests sticking with the citizen's survey as it is important to take the pulse of our citizens and feels this could be done for a minimal cost. Mr. Gordon and Mr. Grozinger also questioned the value of spending \$65,000 on the "10 year plan."

Mr. Grozinger requested that Mr. Darling provide a breakdown of all special revenue funds.

Mr. Spaulding stated whether or not we make any of these cuts, his intention is to continue to monitor these expenses over time.

Mr. Gordon said he appreciates all the work. He feels the transfer station is a place we could save \$22,000. He then stated that he doesn't want to close the pond and then suggested it might be worth a letter to the Westport First Selectman to discuss a Monday through Friday Beach pass option. Mr. Spaulding stated he did reach out about that as well as a reduction to the senior rate and he is waiting for a response.

Mr. Grozinger agreed with Mr. Gordon about not closing the pond, especially at a time when Compo Beach pass rates are going up. Mr. Grozinger said he also doesn't want to cut the assistant children's librarian position, but said he is on the fence regarding the youth services

director. Mr. Grozinger feels that the Transfer Station is a cut we can make. He would also like to cut the P & Z capital appropriation from this year.

Regarding the Youth Director, Mr. Spaulding feels there should be someone in that role, especially for our high school age children.

Mr. Grozinger moved to approve the capital budget as presented with the exception of the POCD appropriation being \$10,000 instead of \$25,000. Mr. Gordon seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Grozinger moved to approve the debt service budget of \$6,078,588. Mr. Gordon seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Gordon moved to approve Town Operating as presented, with the exception of the removal of \$39,500 of computer servers from the Police Department budget with the intention of funding through a supplemental appropriation this fiscal year, and an increase of \$8,000 to the Police Department Motor Fuels line, for a total budget of \$13,072,298. Mr. Grozinger seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

- 5- **Motion to adjourn.** Mr. Gordon moved to adjourn at 9:10 pm. Mr. Grozinger seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Minutes submitted by,
Randi Derene, Administrative Assistant

Minutes approved: March 15, 2018